

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106143
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
APPROVED BY AF-RMMOOSE
AF/W-DBEASUM (SUB)

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P 260220Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, NI

SUBJECT: AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DISCUSSES BAKER CASE WITH
NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR

1. APRIL 24, AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE INVITED
NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO TO CALL TO DISCUSS BAKER CASE.
MOOSE BEGAN BY ADMITTING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ALL THE
DETAILS OF THE CASE AND INVITING JOLAOSO TO EXPLAIN HIS
UNDERSTANDING OF IT. JOLAOSO REPLIED THAT HIS KNOWLEDGE
WAS ALSO INCOMPLETE. HE SAID BAKER HAD BEEN IN TOUCH
WITH THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. HE SAID
HE WAS STILL PUZZLED BY THE CASE. HE SAID THAT ON MARCH 6
THE EMBASSY HAD SENT A MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEAD OF STATE
TO MEA ON THE BAKER CASE BUT HAD RECEIVED NO ACKNOWLEDGE-
MENT. JOLAOSO SAID HE WAS DISTRESSED THAT NOTHING HAD
YET BEEN DONE AND TERMED THE CASE QUOTE UNFORTUNATE UNQUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR EASUM SUMMARIZED THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE OF
THE CASE AND SAID THAT WE HAD REDUCED OUR REQUESTS TO
THE RESTORATION OF BAKER'S RESIDENCE PERMIT AND THE RES-
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PAGE 02 STATE 106143

TORATION OF HIS FREEDOM TO TRAVEL IN THE COUNTRY. WE
WERE NO LONGER ASKING FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE CASE OR
AN EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS WHY WE WERE DENIED ACCESS
TO BAKER WHEN HE WAS FIRST DETAINED.

3. MOOSE EMPHASIZED THAT BAKER HAS CONTRIBUTED A GREAT
DEAL TO US/NIGERIAN RELATIONS AND HAS SPOKEN FAVORABLY,

PUBLICLY AND OFTEN ABOUT THE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES IN NIGERIA. HE CONTINUED THAT THE US SIDE HAD DECIDED NOT TO RAISE THE BAKER CASE IN LAGOS, IN PART BECAUSE WE THOUGHT IT WAS ON THE POINT OF BEING RESOLVED AND IN PART BECAUSE THE AIG CASE HAD TEMPORARILY ECLIPSED IT. HOWEVER, WE COULD NOT IGNORE IT. MOOSE GAVE A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD (TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL) TO JOLAOSO. EASUM SAID HE WOULD GIVE GARBA A COPY WHEN HE SAW HIM IN NEW YORK APRIL 25.

4. JOLAOSO CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD AGAIN REQUEST A STATUS REPORT ON THE CASE AND WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IT BE RESOLVED TO BAKER'S SATISFACTION. MOOSE AGREED THAT IF THE CASE WERE LEFT TO FESTER IT WOULD GET IN THE WAY OF EVERYTHING HE AND JOLAOSO WERE TRYING TO DO TO IMPROVE RELATIONS.

5. AT THE END OF THE MEETING MOOSE THANKED JOLAOSO FOR THE COOPERATION OF HIS EMBASSY AND THE EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY HIS GOVERNMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

6. FYI AMBASSADOR EASUM DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS CASE NEEDS TO BE RAISED IN LAGOS AT A LEVEL HIGHER THAN FABUNMI FOR THE TIME BEING. HE PLANS TO DISCUSS IT WITH GARBA WHEN HE SEES HIM IN NEW YORK APRIL 25-26.
END FYI
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PAGE 03 STATE 106143

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